

An Enclosed Cockpit, Please.



The crew of this B-9 might have been a bit chilly in their open cockpits, but this bomber's technology was on the leading edge when Boeing designed it in 1930. The B-9 was the Air Corps' first all-metal monoplane bomber. The low-wing aircraft had internally braced cantilever wings and retractable landing gear. It had a .30-caliber machine gun in the front and rear cockpits and could carry more than 2,000 pounds

of bombs. With two 600 hp R-1860-11 engines in nacelles ahead of the wings, the Y1B-9A version produced a maximum speed of 188 mph. Such speeds made open cockpits impractical, and the B-9 was one of the last US open-cockpit bombers. Only seven were built. The B-9 never entered production, being surpassed by the Martin B-10.